

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are presently pending in the application. Claim 13 has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lhuissier et al. (USP 5,641,204), (hereafter Lhuissier). Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lhuissier et al. Finally, Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lhuissier et al., in view of Mundell et al. (USP 4,337,931), (hereafter Mundell).

For the following reasons, the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Lhuissier et al. do not teach or suggest a pad assembly having a main portion and side portions, the main portion interposed between the side portions, the side portions including boundary-portion pulling slots wherein boundary-portion insert wires are disposed along bottom portions of said boundary-portion pulling slots, and the main portion including a main-portion pulling slot disposed substantially perpendicular to the boundary-portion pulling slots; a cover assembly covering a surface of the pad assembly, the cover assembly including boundary-portion pulling bags pulled into the boundary-portion pulling slots respectively and a main-portion pulling bag pulled into the main-portion pulling slot, wherein boundary-portion end wires are inserted into said boundary-portion pulling bags and fixed to said boundary-portion insert wires respectively; and a main-portion end wire inserted into the main-portion pulling bag, the main-portion end wire having opposite end portions bent, the main-portion end wire being placed into the

main-portion pulling slot with the bent opposite end portions linked with the boundary-portion end wires respectively, as recited in Claim 1, and as substantially recited in Claim 10.

Rather, the Examiner mistakenly equates the pulling bag of the present invention to the strip 26 of Lhuissier et al. However, these two features are not equivalent to each other. In Lhuissier et al., the stitches 31 are necessary to fix the cord 30 to the strip 26. However, in the present invention, since the pulling bag stores the wires 6 therein, stitches or the like are not necessary. Therefore, the pulling bag of the present invention is different in function from that of the strip 26 in Lhuissier et al.

In other words, a supporting method by the pulling bag of the wires 6 of the present invention is different from a fixing method by the strip 26 of the cord 30 of Lhuissier et al. With the pulling bag of the present invention, a seat having a simple structure with improved assembly efficiency, can be obtained.

Further, the connecting method of the wires 6 between the boundary portion and the main portion as recited in Claims 1 and 10, differs from that of Lhuissier et al. In the present invention, the main portion end wire 3 connects with the boundary portion end wire 4 which has sufficient rigidity, and makes the connecting portion hard to break. However, in Lhuissier et al., the main portion hook 32 connects with the strip 26, which tears easily. Accordingly, the connecting portion is easy to break. Thus, the pulling bag of the present invention should not be equated with the strip 26 of Lhuissier et al.

Thus, the present invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious over Lhuissier et al., and the rejection of Claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103 over Lhuissier et al., should be withdrawn.

With respect to Claim 8, the Applicants respectfully submit that the applied prior art does not teach or suggest a seat including a cover assembly including boundary-portion pulling bags, the boundary-portion pulling bags respectively having cut portions at intermediate portions thereof, through which said intermediate portions of said boundary-portion end wires are exposed so as to be linked with said main-portion end wire.

Rather, Lhuissier et al. disclose strips 26 each having a cord 30 or braid (rather than a wire) sewn along the free edge 26b by stitches 31, and fixing holes 28 disposed at each end of the strip 26. The cord 30 is not disposed in the strip 26, as required by Claim 13, nor are the fixing holes 28 disposed at intermediate portions of the strip 26 to expose the cord 30, also as required by Claim 12, for attachment to the hooks 33.

Further, since the present invention includes boundary-portion end wire 4 linked to main portion end wire 3, there is no damage to the fabric of the boundary portion pulling bag 1c as there would be done by the hook 33 to the fabric strip 26 of Lhuissier et al., over time. Specifically, Lhuissier et al. disclose fabric strips 26, where eventually the hooks' 33 insertion into the fixing hole 28 would pull the fabric strip 26 such that it would tear upward to the cord 30, and over time, even the cord 30 itself could also be worn away to release the hook 33 and remove the tension across the seat.

Accordingly, Claim 8 is patentable is patentable over the applied prior art.

Further, since Claims 2-12 depend from Claim 1, they are also patentably distinguishable over Lhuissier et al. for the reasons cited above with respect to Claim 1.

With respect to new Claim 13, the Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied prior art references teaches or suggests a cover assembly covering a surface of the pad assembly, the cover assembly including boundary-portion pulling bags pulled into the

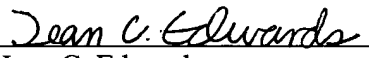
boundary-portion pulling slots respectively and a main-portion pulling bag pulled into the main-portion pulling slot, said boundary-portion pulling bags having cut portions at intermediate portions thereof, wherein boundary-portion end wires are inserted into said boundary-portion pulling bags and fixed to said boundary-portion insert wires respectively, and said boundary-portion end wires being exposed at said cut portions thereof; and a main-portion end wire inserted into the main-portion pulling bag, the main-portion end wire having opposite end portions bent, the main-portion end wire being placed into the main-portion pulling slot with the bent opposite end portions linked with the boundary-portion end wires respectively.

Thus, Claim 13 is patentable over the applied prior art.

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,


Jean C. Edwards
Registration No. 41,728

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC
1901 L St., N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: 202/659-6946
Facsimile: 202/659-1559
Date: **November 9, 2004**

DC 46449-2 97547